

Appln No. 10/593,026
Amdt date July 8, 2010
Reply to Office action of January 11, 2010

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Currently amended) A method for anonymously indexing an electronic record system, the method comprising:

storing an asymmetric cryptographic private key under the control of a portable storage device of a registered user;

storing an anonymous public key certificate, the anonymous public key certificate being associated with an asymmetric cryptographic public key matching the asymmetric cryptographic private key;

providing the portable storage device with information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device; and

indexing, within [[an]] the electronic record system, personal information of the registered user, wherein ~~whereby~~ association of the personal information with the registered user is anonymously verifiable by use of the anonymous public key certificate.

97. (Currently amended) The method of claim 96 wherein the information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device is ~~provided with~~ at least one of:

~~human readable information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device;~~ and

~~machine readable information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device upon presentation of the portable storage device.~~

98. (Currently amended) The method of claim 96 wherein the portable storage device is at least one of: a smartcard[[:]] and an electronic passport.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96 wherein the indexing comprises associating with each item of personal information of the registered user an electronic record pointer, and wherein the anonymous public key certificate contains the electronic record pointer.

100. (Currently amended) The method of claim 96, wherein storing of the asymmetric cryptographic private key under the control of the portable storage device comprises at least one of:

storing the asymmetric cryptographic private key in the portable storage device;
storing an access code in the portable storage device allowing access to the asymmetric cryptographic private key; and
copying the asymmetric cryptographic private key into the possession of an ~~authorised~~authorized user.

101. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 99 wherein digital signature codes are created for given data items within the electronic record system in order to explicitly link each digitally signed data item to ~~the value of~~ an electronic record pointer associated with the digital signature codes.

102. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 96 wherein digital signature codes are created for given data items in the electronic record system using ~~an~~the asymmetric cryptographic private key ~~issued to the registered person~~, where each digital signature code is interpreted as explicitly recording the consent of the registered person to the creation of each respective digitally signed data item.

103. (Currently amended) An anonymously indexed electronic record system comprising:

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a portable storage device for a registered user, an asymmetric cryptographic private key being under the control of the portable storage device, the portable storage device being provided with information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device;

a stored anonymous public key certificate associated with an asymmetric cryptographic public key matching the asymmetric cryptographic private key[[],]; and

an electronic storage indexing personal information of the registered user,

whereby association of the personal information with the registered user is anonymously verifiable by use of the anonymous public key certificate.

104. (Currently amended) The system of claim 103 wherein the information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device is ~~provided with~~ at least one of:

~~human readable information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device; and~~

~~machine readable information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device upon presentation of the portable storage device.~~

105. (Currently amended) The system of claim 103 wherein the portable storage device is at least one of: a smartcard[[];] and an electronic passport.

106. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the electronic storage indexes the personal information by having associated with each item of personal information of the registered user an electronic record pointer, and wherein the anonymous public key certificate contains the electronic record pointer.

107. (Previously presented) The system of claim 106 wherein digital signature codes are created for given data items within the electronic record system in order to explicitly link each digitally signed data item to the value of an electronic record pointer associated with the digital signature codes.

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108. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103 wherein digital signature codes are created for given data items in the electronic record system using an asymmetric cryptographic private key issued to the registered person, where each digital signature code is interpreted as explicitly recording the consent of the registered person to the creation of each respective digitally signed data item.

109. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the anonymous public key certificate contains a personal data component.

110. (Previously presented) The system of claim 109 wherein the personal data component comprises biometric data of the registered user.

111. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103, wherein the asymmetric cryptographic private key is stored in the portable storage device.

112. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103, wherein an access code is stored in the portable storage device allowing access to the asymmetric cryptographic private key.

113. (Currently amended) The system of claim 103, wherein the asymmetric cryptographic private key can be copied with the registered user's authorization into the possession of an ~~authorised~~authorized user.

114. (Currently amended) The system of claim 113 wherein the ~~authorised~~authorized user is a health care professional ~~authorised~~authorized by the registered user to enter an update to the registered user's indexed personal information.

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115. (Previously presented) A portable storage device for a registered user of an anonymously indexed electronic record system, the portable storage device being provided with information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device, wherein an asymmetric cryptographic private key is under the control of the portable storage device, wherein an anonymous public key certificate is associated with an asymmetric cryptographic public key matching the asymmetric cryptographic private key, and wherein association of anonymously indexed personal information with the user is anonymously verifiable by use of the anonymous public key certificate.